

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP(CARTER, JIMMY) PINT, PL

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO POLAND: ATMOSPHERICS AT PUBLIC EVENTS

1. AT THE PUBLIC EVENTS OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER'S DECEMBER 29-31 VISIT TO POLAND, THE POLISH PUBLIC GREETED THEM WARMLY -- WHEN IT HAD THE CHANCE. A COMBINATION OF RAW WEATHER, THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, FAILURE OF THE POLISH PRESS TO PUBLISH THE TIMETABLE FOR THE DECEMBER 30 TOURS OF THE WARSAW MONUMENTS AND OLD TOWN, AND, ABOVE ALL, STRINGENT EFFORTS AT INSULATION BY THE POLISH SECURITY SERVICES, KEPT THE SIZE OF THE CROWDS CONSIDERABLY BELOW WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE CASE UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS NO MISTAKING THE FRIENDLY FEELINGS AND PERSONAL REGARD TOWARD THE CARTERS SHOWN BY THE POLES IN THE STREET WHO WERE ON HAND.

2. CROWD CONTROL AT THE AIRPORT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AND AT THE THREE MONUMENTS WAS EXTREMELY STRICT. PERHAPS 200 POLES WERE BUSSSED INTO THE MILITARY AIR TERMINAL FOR THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CEREMONIES RELATIVELY FEW -- AND THESE OBVIOUSLY PRE-SCREENED -- WERE ALLOWED A CLOSE-

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UP VIEW OF THE CEREMONIES AT THE MONUMENTS. THESE GENERALLY STONY-FACED APPARATCHIKI WERE ARRANGED SO THAT THE ORDINARY SPECTATORS, BEHIND STRONG POLICE CORDONS AND CONSIDERABLY FARTHER AWAY, COULD SEE LITTLE OR NOTHING OF THE WREATH-LAYINGS AND ATTENDANT CEREMONIES. EVEN HAD THEIR VIEW BEEN UNOBSTRUCTED, ONLY THOSE WITH THE SHARPEST EYES COULD HAVE PICKED UP ANY DETAILS, SO FAR WERE THEY KEPT FROM THE

MONUMENTS THEMSELVES.

3. A FEW MINOR INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE. APPROXIMATELY A HUNDRED PEOPLE SUCCEEDED IN BREAKING THROUGH THE POLICE LINE ORIGINALLY FORMED ABOUT A THIRD OF A MILE FROM THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, IN AN ATTEMPT TO CATCH A CLOSER GLIMPSE OF THE PRESIDENT. THE POLICE FORMED A NEW LINE WHICH STILL KEPT THESE PEOPLE AT A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE. ONE YOUNG WOMAN APPARENTLY TRIED TO BREAK THIS LINE. SHE WAS DRAGGED AWAY TO A POLICE JEEP. THERE WERE CHANTS OF "CARTER, CARTER" AND A CHORUS OF "STO LAT" (THE POLISH EQUIVANT OF "FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW") OBVIOUSLY DIRECTED AT THE PRESIDENT, FROM THE MIDST OF THE MAIN CROWN BEHIND THE CORDON AT THE TOMB.

4. AT THE EDGE OF THE SQUARE ON WHICH THE NIKE MONUMENT IS LOCATED, ABOUT FIFTY PEOPLE IN THEIR LATE TEENS OR TWENTIES, STANDING ON AN ACCESS STREET WITH A POOR VIEW OF THE MONUMENT ABOUT 500 YARDS AWAY, TRIED TO MOVE CLOSER. A GROUP OF POLICE LINKED ARMS TO REPSSDHEIR ADVANCE. THE YOUNG PEOPLE REACTED WITH CRIES OF "GESTAPO*" MORE POLICE LEFT THE MAIN CORDON TO PUSH BACK THE CROWD OF YOUTHS, WHICH THEN QUICKLY MELTED AWAY. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SQUARE, CROWDS ALSO STRAINED AT THE POLICE LINE. AS THE MOTORCADE LEFT FOR THE GHETTO MONUMENT, THESE PEOPLE, WITH CHEERS AND APPLAUSE, GAVE THE CARTERS

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THEIR FIRST SPONTANEOUS GREETING IN POLAND. THEY FINALLY BROKE THROUGH THE CORDON, BUT ONLY IN TIME TO SEE THE REAR OF THE MOTORCADE SPEEDING OFF.

5. AT THE GHETTO MONUMENT, SIMILAR CROWD-CONTROL MEASURES KEPT ORDINARY POLES AT A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM THE CEREMONIES. HOWEVER, AS HIS MOTORCADE WAS LEAVING THE SQUARE, WUE PRESIDENT DIRECTED AN UNSCHEDULED STOP, LEFT THE LIMOUSINE, AND WAS IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDED BY SEVERAL HUNDRED FRIENDLY VARSOVIANS. THIS WAS HIS BEST PERSONAL EXPOSURE TO THE POLISH PUBLIC DURING THE VISIT.

6. MRS. CARTER WAS WARMLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY GREETED BY A MODERATE-SIZE CROWD IN THE OLD TOWN SQUARE. THIS NUMBER INCLUDED A GROUP, WHICH ENCIRCLED MRS. CARTER'S PARTY AND WALKED WITH IT THROUGH THE SQUARE. DESPITE THE EXTREMELY UN-FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS THE CROWD COULD HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER. HOWEVER, POLISH SECURITY COMPLETED SEALED OFF THE OLD TOWN AREA APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES BEFORE MRS. CARTER'S ARRIVAL AND APPARENTLY ADMITTED ONLY PERSONS LIVING IN THE AREA OR WHO WERE

PREVIOUSLY PART OF THEIR PLAN FOR ADMITTANCE. (THOSE WHO ALREADY WERE IN OLD TOWN SHOPS WERE ALLOWED TO STAY.) IN THE OLD TOWN SQUARE ITSELF, THE CROWD WAS CLOSELY CONTROLLED, AND THE MILITIA RESTRAINED SMALLER CROWDS FROM SPILLING INTO THE SQUARE FROM THE SIDE STREETS. POLISH SECURITY OFFICERS WERE AGGRESSIVE IN KEEPING WELL-WISHERS AWAY FROM THE OFFICIAL PARTY AS IT WALKED THROUGH TL SQUARE.

7. IN SPITE OF THESE EFFORTS, THE MAJORITY OF THE ONLOOKERS GAVE MRS. CARTER A GENUINELY WARM RECEPTION. THERE WERE NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS BY INDIVIDUAL POLES TO BREAK THROUGH THE SECURITY RING SURROUNDING MRS. CARTER AND TO GREET HER PERSONALLY. SUCH EFFORTS WERE FORCEFULLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEFLECTED. IN ONE INSTANCE A TEENAGE GIRL TRISA TO GET A CLOSE-UP LOOK AT THE FIRST LADY. POLISH SECURITY PUSHED HER ASIDE WITH SUCH VIGOR THAT IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE DENSITY OF THE CROWD SHE WOULD HAVE FAILEDN TO THE PAVEMENT. INSTEAD, THE GIRL BOUNCED BACK AND BEGAN HITTING THE SECURITY OFFICER ON THE SHOULDERS WITH HER FISTS WHILE TELLING HIM OF HER DISSATISFACTION IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS. SHE THEN KEPT HER DISTANCE FOR A FEW MINUTES BUT LATER REJOINED THE CLOSE CIRCLE AROUND RS. CARTER, STILL TRYING FOR A PERSONAL GLIMPSE OF THE FIRST LADY. FINALLY, THE GIRL GAVE UP AND TOOK A POSITION ON THE CURB NEAR WHERE THE MOTORCADE FORMED FOR DEPARTURE. AT THIS POINT, MRS. CARTER BROKE OUT FROM HER SECURITY CIRCLE AND STARTED TO GREET THE CROWD LINING THE SIDEWALK. MUCH TO THE YOUNG GIRL'S SURPRISE AND DELIGHT, MRS. CARTER CAME UP TO HER, SHOOK HER HAND, AND EXCHANGED A COUPLE OF WORDS.

DAVIES

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